PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

The President Sends His Annual Communication to Congress.

The Italian and Chillian Disputes - The Scaling Question Discussed—The New Tariff and Silver-Defects in the Electoral System.

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WASHINGTON, Dec. 9.-The president's message was distributed in both houses of congress promptly upon assembling to-day. It is, mainly, as follows:

To the Senate and House of Representatives: The reports of the heads of the several executive departments, required by law to be submitted to me, which are herewith transmitted, and the reports of the serve tray of the treasury and the attorney general made directly to congress, furnish a comprehensive view of the administrative work of the last fiscal year relating to internal affairs. It would be of great advantage if these reports could have an attentive per-usal by every member of congress and all who take an interest in public affairs. Such a perusal could not fail to excite a higher appreciation of the wast labor and conscientious efforts which are given to the

onduct of our civil administration.

The reports will, I believe, show that every question has been approached, considered and decided from the standpoint of public duty and upon considerations affecting the public interests alone. Again I inite to every branch of the service the attention and serutiny of congress.

THE STATE DEPARTMENT.

What Has Been Done in the Sealing, Chilian and Italian Lynching Difficulties. The work of the state department during the last year has been characterized by an

unusual number of important negotiations and by diplomatic results of a notable and highly beneficial character. Among these are reciprocal trade arrangements which have been concluded, in the exercise powers conferred by section 3 of the tariff law, with the republic of Brazil, with Spain, for its West India possessions, and with San

negotiations with other countries have been much advanced, and it is hoped that before the close of the year further definitive trade arrangements of great value APPARES WITH GREAT BRITAIN

In view of the reports which have been received as to the diminution of the seal hords in the Behring sea, I deemed it wise to propose to her majesty's government in February last that an agreement for a closed season should be made, pending the negotiations for arbitration which then seemed to be approaching a favorable conclusion. After much correspondence, and delays for which this gov ernment was not responsible, an agreement was reached and signed on the 13th of June. by which Great Britain undertook from that cate and until May 1, 199, to prohibit the killing by her subjects of scals in the Behring sea and the government of the United States during the same period to enforce its existing prohibition against pelagic scaling and to limit the catch by the fur scal company upon the islands to 7,000 skips. If this agreement could have been reached earlier, in response to the strennon endeavors of this government, it would have been more effective, but coming as late as it did, it unquestionably resulted in greatly diminishing the destruction of the

eals by the Canadian scalers. Le my last message I stated that the basis of arbitration proposed by her majesty's government for the adjustment of the long-pending controversy as to the seal fisheries was not acceptable. I am glad now to be able that terms satisfactory to this government have been agreed upon and that an agreement as to the arbitrators is all that is necessary to the completion of the

convention. MEAT INSPECTION.

The law of the last congress providing a system of inspection for our meats intended for export, and clothing the president with power to exclude foreign products from our market in case the country sending then should perpetuate unjust discriminations against any product of the United States, placed this government in a position to effectively urge the removal of such discriminstions against our meats. It is gratifying to be able to state that Germany, Denmark and France, in the named, have opened their ports to inspected American pork products. The removal of these restrictions in every instance was asked for and given solely upon the ground that we had now provided a meat inspection that should be accepted as adequate to the complete removal of the dangers, real or fanc ed, which had been previously urged The state department, our ministers abroad and the secretary of agriculture have cooperated with unflagging and intelligent zeal for the accomplishment of this great result. The outlines of an agreement have been reached with Germany, looking to of the continued free importation of her corars but the time has not yet arrived when this correspondence can be submitted

to congress

THE NEW ORLEANS LYNCHING The lynching at New Orleans in March test of cleven men of Italian nativity by a mob of itable incident. It did not, however, have its origin in any general animosay to the Italian people, nor in any disrespect to the government of Italy, with which our relations were of the most friendly character. The fury of the mob was directed against these men as the supposed participants or accessories on the murder of a city officer. I de not alinde to this as mitigating in any de ree this off use against law and humanity, but only as affecting the international ques tions wideh grew out of it. It was once re presented by the Italian minister that several of those whose lives had been taken by the mob were Italian subjects, and a de mand was made for the punishment of the participants and for an indemnity to the those who were killed, be regretted that the n which these claims amilies of those who manner were presented was not such as to promot a caim discussion of the questions involved ; but this may well be attributed to the excitement and indignation with which the crime naturally evoked. The views of this government as to its obligations to foreign ers domicied here were fully stated in the correspondence, as well as its purpose to make an investigation of the affair with a view to determine whether there were present any circumstances that could, under such rules of duty as we had indicated, cre ate an obligation upon the United States. The temporary absence of a minister pleni further correspondence, but it is not doubted that a friendly conclusion is attainable. Some suggestions growing out of this unhappy incident are worthy the attention of congress. It would, I believe, be entirely competent for congress to make offenses against the treaty rights of foreigners domiciled in the United States cognizable in the federal courts. This has not, however, been done, and the f deral officers and courts have no power in such cases to intervene either for the protection of a foreign citizen or for the punishment of his slayers seems to me to follow in this state of law that the officers of the state charged with the police and judicial powers in such cases must, in the consideration of international questions, growing out of such incidents, be regarded in such sense as federal agents as to make this government answerable for their acts in cases where it would be answerable if

treaty rights. CHILIAN AFFAIRS.

The civil war in Chill, which began in January last, was continued, but, fortunateby with infrequent and not important armed leave the empire by reason of the impossi-collisions, until August 25, when the con-bility of finding subsistence within the pair

the United States had used its constitutional

ower to define and punish crimes against

Provident Balmaceds at once ognized that his cause was lost, and a rovisional government was specifly esby the victorious party. Our was promptly directed to recogalso and put himself in communication with this government so soon as it should have established its de facto charter, which was done. During the pendence of this civil contest frequent indirect appeals were made to this government to extend helligerent rights to the in-urgents and to give audience to their representatives.

This was decimed, and that policy was sursued throughout, which this govern-nent, when wrenched by civil war, so strenionaly invisted upon on the part of Europe an nations. The Itata an armed vessel commanded by a naval officer of the insurgent fleet, mained by its callers and with soldiers on board, was select under process of the United States court at San Diego, Cal., for a viciation of our neutrality law. While in the custody of an officer of the court the vesset was forethly wrested from his control and put to sea. It would have been incon-sistent with the dignity and self-respect of this government not to have insisted that the lints should be returned to San Diego to ablde by the judement of the court. This was so clear to the junta of the congression. al party, established at Iquique, that, before the arrival of the State at that port, the secretary of foreign relations of the provisional government addressed to Rear Adm. Brown, commanding the United States naval forces. communication, from which the following

"The provisional government has learned by the cablegrams of the Associated press that the transport Itata, detained in San Diego by order of the United States for taking on board munitions of war and in pos-session of the marshal left the port, carry ing on board this official, who was landed at a point near the coast, and then conti her voyage. If this news be correct, this government would deplore the conduct of the linta, and as an evidence that it is not disposed to support or agree to the infrac-tion of the laws of the United States, the un-dersigned takes advantage of the personal relations you have been good enough to maintain with him since your arrival in this port to deciare to you that as soon as she is within reach of our orders this government will put the Itala, with the arms and munitions she took on board in San Diego, at the

disposition of the United States ' A trial in the district court of the United States for the southern district of California has recently resulted in a decision holding, among other things, that, inasmuch as the ingressional party had not been recognized as a belligerent, the acts done in its interest could not be a violation of our neutrality laws. From this judgment the United States has appealed; not that the condemnation of the vessel is a matter of importance, but that we may know what the present state of our law is, for, if this construction of the statute is correct, there is obvious necessity

It is believed that the government of Chili is not in a position, in view of the precedents with which it has been connected, to broadly deny the right of asylum, and the correspondence has not thus far presented any such denial. The treatment of our minester for a time was such as to call for a decided protest, and it was very gratifying to observe that unfriendly measures, which were undoubtedly the result of the prevailng excitement were at once rescinded or audably relaxed.

On the 18th of October an event occurred in Valparaiso so serious and tragic in its dreumstauces and results as to very justly excite the indignation of our people and to call for prompt and decides action on the part of this government. A considerable number of the sullors of the United States steamer Baltimore, then in the harbor of Valparaiso, being upon shore leave and un-armed, were assaulted by armed men nearly simultaneously in different localities in the One petty officer was killed outright and seven or eight seamen were seriously wounded, one of whom has since died. So savage and brutal was the assault that sev eral of our sailors received more than two and one as many as eight staff wounds. An investigation of the affair was promptly made by a board of officers of the Biltimore, and their report shows that these as saults were unprovoked, that our men were conducting themselves in a neaccable and or lerly manner, and that some of the po of the city took part in the assault and used their weapons with fatal effect, while a few some well-disposed citizens, endeavored to protect our men. Thirty-six of our saliors were arrested and some of them, while being taken to prison, were cruelly beaten and maltreated. The fact that they were all discharged, no criminal charge being lodged against any one of them shows very clearly that they were in nocent of any breach of the peace

So far as I have yet been able to learn no other explanation of this bloody work has been suggested than that it had its origin in hostility to those men as sailors of the United States, wearing the uniform of their government, and not in any individual net or animosity. The attention of the Chilian government was at once called to this affair and a statement of the tacts on sined by the investigation we had conducted was submitted, accompanied by a reques to be advised of any other or qualifying facts in the possession of the Chilian gov-ernment that might tend to relieve this affair of the appearance of an insult to this government. The Chillan government was dso a vised that if such qualifying facts did not exist this government would confidently expect full and prompt reparation

Is is to be regretted that the reply of the secretary for foreign affairs of visional government was couched in an of fensive tone. To this no response has been made. This government is now awaiting the result of an investigation which has en conducted by the criminal cour: at Valparaiso. It is reported unofficially that the investigation is about completed, and it is expected that the result will soon be municated to this government, togethe with some adequate and satisfactory re-sponse to the note by which the attention of Chili was called to this incident If these just expectations should be disappointed or further needless delay intervene, I will, by a special message, bring this matter again to the attention of congress for such action as may be necessary. The entire respondence with the government of Chili will at an early day be submitted to congress.

THE CHINESE. The late outbreak against foreigners in various parts of the Chinese empire has been a cause of deep concern in view of the numerous establishments of our citizens in interior of that country. This government can do no less than insist upon a continuance of the protective and punitory measures which the Chinese government has heretofore applied. No effort will be omitted to protect our citizens peaceably sojourning in China, but recent unofficial information indicates that what was at first regarded as an outbreak of mob violence against foreigners has assumed the larger form of an in-ur-

rection against public order. The Chinese government has declined to receive Mr. Biair as the minister of the United States on the ground that, as a participant while a senator in the enactment of the existing legislation again t the introduction of Chinese laborers, he has be unfriendly and objectionable to China, 1 have felt constrained to point out to the Chinese government the untenableness of this position, which seems to rest as much on the unacceptability of our legislation as on that of the person chosen, and which if admitted, would practically debar the selecion of any representatives so long as the

existing laws remain in force. THE ILL-TREATED HEBREWS. This government has found occasion to express, in a friendly spirit, but with much earnestness, to the government of the exar its serious concern because of the harsh measures now being enforced against the Hebrews in Russia. By the revival of antieniftic laws, long in abeyance, great numbers of those unfortunate people have been constrained to abandon their homes and

immigration of these people to the United States—many other countries being closed to them is largely increasing and is likely to assume proportions which may make it difficult to find homes and employment for them here and to seriously affect the labor market. It is estimated that over one million will be forced from Russia within a few years. The Hebrow is nover a heggar, be has a wayer kent the law-dife, by toil. he has always kept the law-life by toll-often under severe and oppressive civil re-strictions. It is also true that no race, sect orciass has more fully exted for its own than the Hebrew race. But the suiden transfer of such a multitude, under condi-tions that tend to strip them of their small necumulations and to depress their energies and courage, is neither good for them nor

for us. The bunishment, whether by direct decree or by not less certain indirect methods, of so local question. A decree to leave one country is in the nature of things, an order to enter another some other. This considerution, as well as the suggestions of humanity, furnishes ample ground for the remon-strances which we have presented to Russia. while our historic friendship for that gov. ment cannot full to give the user that our representations are those of a sincore well wisher.

THE TREASURY.

Operations of the Department-Effects of the Tariff-The Silver Question-Etc. The general interest in the operations of the treasury department has augmented during the last year by reason of the conflicting predictions, which accomislation of the last congress affecting the revenues, as to the results of this legislation upon the trueasury and upon the country. On the one hand it was contended that imports would so fall off as to leave the reasury bankrupt and that the prices of articles entering into the living of the peo-ple would be so enhanced as to disastrously affect their comfort and happiness while on the other it was argued that the loss of the revenue largely, the result of placing sngar on the free list, would be a direct gain to the people, that the prices of the necessaries of life, including those most highly protected, would not be enhanced; that labor would have a larger market and the products of the farm advanced prices; while the treasury surplus and receipts would be adequate to meet the appropria tions, including the large exceptional ex-penditures for the refunding to the states of the direct tax and the redemption of the 4/2

It is not my purpose to enter at length into a discussion of the effects of the legis-lation to which I have referred but a brief examination of the statistics of the treasury and a general glance at the state of business throughout the country will, I think, satisf any impartial inquirer that its results have disappointed the evil prophecies of its op-ponents and in a large measure realized the hopeful predict one of its friends. Rarely, if ever before, in the history of the country has there been a time when the proceeds of one day's labor or the product of one farmed acre would purchase so large an amount of those things that enter into the living of the masses of the people. I believe that a full test will develop the fact that the tariff act of the Fifty first concress is very favorable average effect upon the prices articles entering into common use

EFFECTS OF THE TARIFF. During the twelve months from October 1, 1880, to September 30, 1881, the total value of our foreign commerce (imports and exports abined) was 21.747,806,406, which was largest of any year in the history of the United States. The largest in any previous year was in 1891 when our commerce amounted to 11 647, 139,693, and the last year exceeds this enormous aggregate by ove one hundred millions. It is interesting an to some will be surprising, to know that during the year ended September 30, 180 , our imports of merchandise amounted to \$-24-13,773 which was an increase of more than \$11,00,000 over the value of the im-ports of the corre-ponding months of the preceding year, when the imports of mer-chandise were unusually large in anticipation of the tariff legislation then pending The average annual value of the imports of merchandise for 1881 to 1893 was 1892,180,522, and during the year ended September 50, 1801, this annual average was exceeded by

The value of free imports during the was MIS,692,387 more than the value of tree imports during the corresponding twelve aths of the preceding year, and there was during the same period a decrease of \$100,840,50s in the value of imports of dutiable merchandise. The percentage of merchan dise admitted free of duty during the year o which I have reference, the first u the new tariff, was 48 18, while during the preceding twelve months, under the old tariff, the percentage was N. 7, an increase of 11.91 percent. If we take the six months ending September 30 last, which covers the time during which sugars have been admitted free of duty, the percentage of value of merchandise imported free of duty is found to be 55.57, which is a larger percentage of free imports than during any prior fiscal year in the history of the government.

If we turn to exports of merchandise the statistics are full of gratification. Toe whole of such exports of merchandles for the twelve months ended Sentember to 1801 vas 1923,091,135, while for the correspo previous twelve months it was 180,177,115 in increase of 162,914,601, which is nearly three times the average annual increase exports of merchandise during any year is the history of the government. The increase in the value of exports of agricultural products during the year referred to over the corresponding twelve months of the prior year, was \$45.846,197, while the increase n the value of exports of manufactured roducts was 116,838 21 t

There is certainly nothing in the condition of trade, foreign or domestic, there is cer-tainly nothing in the condition of our people of any class, to suggest that the existing tariff and revenue legislation bears oppress ively upon the people or retards the commercial development of the nation. It may be argued that our condition would be bet ter if our tariff legislation were upon a free trade basis; but it cannot be denied that all the conditions of prosperity and of general contentment are present in a larger degree than ever before in our history, and that, too, just when it was prophesied they would be in the worst state. Agitation for radical changes in tariff and financial legislation cannot help but may seriously impede business, to the prosperity of which some degro of stability in legislation is essential.

I think there are conclusive evidences that he new tariff created several great industries which will, within a few years, give em ployment to several hundred thousan American working men and women. In view of the somewhat overgrowded condition of the labor market of the United States, every patriotic citizen should rejoice at such result.

The report of the secretary of the treasury shows that the total receipts of the govern ment, from all sources, for the fiscal year the expenditures for the same period were \$421.204,470.46 leaving a surplus of :87,289,762

The receipts of the fiscal year ending June 30, 1892, actual and estimated are \$131,000,000 and the expenditures \$409,000,000. For the fiscal year ending June 30, 1891, the estimated receipts are \$450,450,300 and the expenditures \$441,350,093

SILVER AND ITS CONNECTIONS

Under the law of July, 14, 18 0, the secre tary of the treasury has purcha-el August 15 during the fiscal year 45,393 118 ounces of silver bullion at an average cost of \$1 045 per ounce. The highest price paid during the year was \$1,2085 and the lowest 10,565C. In exchange for this sliver bullion there have been issue; of the treasury notes authorized by the act. The lowest price of silver reached during the fiscal year was \$1936 on April 22, 1591; but on November 1 the market price was only 10 95, which would give to the silver dollar a bullion

gressional forces landed near Valparaise to which it is sought to confine them. The Before the influence of the prospective and after a bloody engagement, captured immigration of these people to the United sliver legislation was fell in the market silver was worth in New York about \$0.000 per sunce. The ablest advocates of free coinage in the last congress were most con ounce, which would make the bullion value of a deltar one hundred cents and hold it there. The prophecies of the anti-silver men of disasters to result from the colmag of 12,000,000 per month were not wider of th mark. The friends of free allver are not agreed, I think, as to the causes that brought their hopeful predictions to mought. Some facts are known. The experts of silver from London to India during the first nine menths of the calendar year, fell off over fity per cent or 15,30,750, compared with the some months of the proceeding year. The supplied for the use of the people was used ed and that beneficial results upon trade and prices have followed this legislation I think must be very clear to everyone, nor should it be forgotten that for every dellar of these notes issued a full dellar's worth of silver bullion is at the time deposited in the treasury as a security for its redempt Upon this subject as upon the tariff. recommendation is that the existing laws be given a full trial and that our business interests be spured the distressing influence which threats of radical changes always impart. Under existing logislation it is in the power of the treasury department to maintain that essential condition of nation-al finance as well as of commercial prosperity-the parity in use of the coin dollars and their paper representatives. The as-surance that those powers would be freely and unhesitatingly used has done much to produce and sustain the present favorable annitibnos eseniai

I am still of the opinion that the free coin age of silver under existing condition would disastrously affect our business inter ests at home and alroad. We could not hope to maintain an equality in the purchasing power of the gold and silver dollar in our own markets, and in foreign trade the stamp gives no added value to the bullion contained in coins. The producers of the country, its farmers and laborers, have the lighest interest that every paper dollar of coin issued by the government shall be as good as any other. If there is one less valuable than another its sure and constant er rand will be to pay them for their tail and for their crops. The money leader will proteet himself by stipulating for payment in gold, but the laborer has never been able to do that. To place business upon a silve basis would mean a sudden and severe con traction of the currency, by the withdrawa of gold and gold notes, and such an unset tiling of all values as would produce a cor mercial panie. I cannot believe that a pen ple so strong and prosperous as ours will

promote such a policy.

THE SUMPLUS, ETC. The presence of a large cash surplus in the treasury has for many years been the sub-ject of much unfavorable criticism and has furnished an argument to those who have desired to place the tariff upon a purely revenue basis. It was agreed by all that the withdrawal from circulation of so large an amount of money was an embarassment to the country and made necessary the inter vention of the department at frequent inter vals to relieve threatened monetary panies The surplus on March 1, 18-2, was \$184,827, 180-23. The policy of applying this surplus to the redemption of the interest-bearing ecurities of the United States was though without interest in selected notional banks There have been redeemed since the date last mentioned of interest bearing securi ties 12:3,079,330, resulting in a reduction of the annual interest charge of 111,681 675. The money which had beed deposited in banks without interest has been gradually with trawn and used in the redemption of b

The result of this policy, of the silve legislation, and of the refunding of the 45 per cent bonds has been a large increase of the money in circulation. At the date last named the circulation was 11.44,203,896, or \$2.03 per capita; while on the first day of December, 1891, it had increased to 11,577,252. 550 or 124.8 per capita. The offer of the secretary of the treasury to the holders of the #4 per cent. bonds to extend the time of redemption at the option of the governm at an interest of 2 per cent, was accepted by the holders of about one half the amount and the unextended bonds are being redeemed on presentation.

POSTAL MATTERS.

Gratifying Results Exhibited Suggestions of the Postmaster-General.

In the report of the postmaster-genera some gratifying results are exhibited and many betterments of the service suggested A perusal of the report gives abundant evidence that the supervision and direction of the postal system have been characterzed by intelligent and conscientions desir to improve the service. The revenues o the department show an increase of over five millions of dollars, while the estion of for the year 1993, shows a surplus of receipt over expenditures.

O can mail post offices have been estab-isher upon the steamers of the North Ger man Loyd and Homburg lines, saving, by the distribution on shipboard, from two to fourteen hours' time in the delivery of maat the port of entry and often much mothan this in the delivery at interior So thoroughly has this system, initiated by Germany and the United States, evidence its usefulness that it can not be longer be fore it is in talled upon all the great ocean mail carrying steamship

EXTENDING PREE DELIVERY. Eight thousand miles of new postal ser-vice have been established upon railroads the car distribution to sub-stations in the great cities has been increased about 12 percent, while the percentage of errors in dis tribution was, during the past year, been re duced over one half. An appropriation was of making some experiments in free delivery in the smaller cities and towns. The results of these experiments have been satis factory that the postmaster-general recon tion, that the free delivery system be at one extended to towns of 5, 0) population. His discussion of the inadequate facilities extended under our present system to rural communities and his suggestions with view to give these communities a fuller par ticipation in the benefits of the postal service are worthy of your careful considera It is not just that the farmer who receives his mail at the neighboring town should not only be compelled to send to the post office for it, but to pay a considerable rent for a box in which to place it or wait his time at a general delivery win dow, while the eny brought to his door. thile the city resident has his mail

THE INTERIOR DEPARTMENT.

Locating the Indians Upon Farms-Spen ing Reservations.

The report of the secretary of the interior shows that a very grati ying pro ress has been made in all of the bureaus which make up that complex difficult department work in the bureau of Indian affairs was perhaps never so large as now by reason of the numerous regotiations which have been proceeding with the tribes for a reduction of of the reservation, with the incident labor of making allotments, and was never more carefully conducted The provision of adequate school facilities for Indian children and the locating of adult Indian upon farms, involve the solution of the "Indian question." Everything else-rations, annucties, and tribal negotiations with the agents, inspectors, commissioners who distribute and conduct them-must pass away when the Indian becomes a citizen, secur-in the individual ownership of a farm from which he derives his subsistence by his own labor, protected by and subordinate to the laws which govern the white man, and provided by the general government or by the local communities in which he lives with the means of educating his children.

OFE ING RESERVATIONS

to the fedians, and the cession of the re- | detached, non-contiguous sections have naining lands to the United States for on under the homestead law, has been uring the year with evergy and cess. In reprember just I was enabled to en to settlement in the territory of Okla-ma 100,00 acres of land, all of which was

The administration of the pension bureau has been characterized during the year by great diligence. The total number of penoners upon the roll on the 20th day of June 1801, was 65136). There were allowed during the fiscal year ending at that time 2 0,855 cases. Of this number 18 ,907 were allowed under the law of June 27, 2003. The issuing of certificates has been proceeding at the rate of about 13,000 per month, about 23 per The commissioner expresses the opinion that he will be able to carefully adjudicate and allow 50,00 claims during the pr sent fiscal year. The appropriation for the payment of pensions for the fiscal year 1 95, 'cl, was \$127,665,300.99 and the amount expended :119,531,649,29, leaving an unexpended surplus The commissioner is quite confident that

there will be no call this year for a deficien-cy appropriation, notwithstanding the rapidity with which the work is being rushed. The mistake which has been made by many in their exaggerated estimates of the cost of pensions is not taking account of the diminished value of first payment under the recent legislation. These payments, under the seneral laws, have been for many years very large, as the pensions, when allowed, dated from flling the claim, and most of these claims had been pending for years. The first payments under the law of June, 1890, are relatively small, and, as the per cent, of these cases increases and that of the old cases diminishes, the annual aggre-cate of first payments is largely reduced. The commissioner, under date of November 11, furnished me with the statement that during the last four months 113,175 certificates were lesued, 27,881 under the general law and 85,182 under the act of June 27, 1890. The average first payment during the four months was 131.45, while the average first payments upon cases allowed during the year ended June 30, 1891, was \$200,35, being a reduction in the average first payments during these four months of :107.48.

The estimate for pension expenditures for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1803, is \$144. 56,000 which, after a careful examination of the subject, the commissioner is of the opinion will be sufficient. While these disburse ments to the disabled soldiers of the great civil war are large, they do not realize the exaggerated estimates of those who oppose this beneficent legislation. The secretary of the interior shows with great fullness the care that is taken to exclude fraudulent claims and also the gratifying fact that the persons to whom these pensions are going are men who rendered, not slight, but aub stantial war service

Department of Agriculture.

If the establishment of the department of agriculture is regarded by anyone as a mere oncession to the unealightened demand of worthy class of people, that impression has been most efformally removed by the great result; already attained. Its homoufluence has been very great in dissemi sating agricultural and borticultural infor further divers fleation of crops. In detect ing and eradicating diseases of domestic informal contact which it has established and maintains with the farmers and stock raisers of the whole country. Every represt for information has had prompt at tention and every suggestion merited con-sideration. The select fic corps of the department is of a high order and is pushing its investigations with method and enthus asm. The inspection by this department of cattle and park products intended for ship ment abroad has been the basis of the suc cess which has attended our efforts to se oval of the restrictions main tained by the European governments.

Civil Service.

The report of the civil service commission should receive the careful attention of the opponents, as well as the friends of this re-The commission invites a persons inspection by senators and representatives of its records and methods; and every fair critic will feel that such an examination should precede a judgment of condemna-tion either of the system or its administra-

I believe that the law is being executed with impartiality, and that the system is incomparably better and fairer than that of apointments upon favor. I have during the ear extended the classified service to inde superintendents, teachers, matron and physicians in the Indian service. ranch of the service is largely related educational and philanthropic work and will abviously be the better for the change

THE ELECTORAL SYSTEM

In Closing His Message the President Has Something to Say on Gerrymandering and the Necessity of a Constitutional Amendment. The method of appointment by the states

of electors of president and vice-president has recently attracted renewed interest by reason of a departure by the state of Michigan from the methods which had become uniform in all the states. Prior to 1833 var. ons methods had been used by the different states and even by the same state. In some the choice was made by the legislature; is others electors were chosen by districts, but more generally by the voters of the whole state upon a general ticket. The movement towards the adoption of the last named method had an early beginning and went steadily forward among the states, until in 1852 there remained but a single in 1832 there remained but a state, South Carolina, that had adopted it. That state, until the civi war, continued to choose its electors by vote of the legislature, but after the war changed its method and conformed to the practice of other states. For nearly sixty care all the states save one have appointed their electors by a popular vote upon a gen eral ticket, and for nearly thirty years this method was universal. After a full tes of other methods, without important division or dissent in any state and without any purpose of party advantage, as we must believe but solely upon the considerations that un-Iformity was desirable and that a general election in territorial divisions not subject to change was most consistent with the popular character of our institutions, best preserved the equality of the voters, and effectually remov d the choice of pres ident from the baneful influence of the "gerrymander," the practice of all the states was brought into harmony. That this con-currence should now be broken, is, 1 think an unfortunate and even a threatening epi ode and one that may well suggest whether the states that still give their approval to the old and prevailing method ought not to seture, by constitutional amendment, a practice which has had the approval of

Recent Michigan legislation provides for choosing what are popularly known as the congressional electors for president by congressional districts, and the two senatorial electors by districts created for that purone. This legislation was, of course, ac-companied by a new congressional apportionment, and the two statutes bring electoral vote of the state under the influence of the "gerrymander." These gerrymanders for congressional purposes are in most cases buttresse i by a gerrymander of the legislative districts, thus making it impo-sible for a majority of the voters of the state to correct correct apportionment and equalize the cos-gres ional districts. A minority rule is established that only a political convulsion can overthrow. I have recently been advised that in one county of a certain state three districts for the election of members of the legislature are constituted as and in the control of public affairs The good work of reducing the larger In-dian reservations by allotments in severalty (60), and one 10,000; while in another county.

These mothods have already found effective apply atom to the choice of senators and represcutatives in congrues and now an evil start has been made in the direction of applying spent to settlement in the terribory of Okia-homa 101,00 acres of land, all of which was taken up by settless in a single day. The rash for these lands was accompaned by a great deal of excitement, but was, happily, free from incidents of violence.

The Complex December of Okia-ment of the government to the great deportments of the government to the great deportments of the government to the great deportment of the government to the great deportment of the government to the great deportment of the government in the great deportment of the government to the great deportment of the government in the great deportment of the government of the irestly through the power of appoint

An election implies a body of electors havwhom has an equal value and influence in determining the result. So when the constiappoint (sleet) in such manner the legislature thereof may direct, number of electors," etc., an restricted power was not given to the legislatures in the selection of methods to be used. A republican form of government is gnarenteed by the constitution to each state, and the power given by the same instrument to the legislatures of the states to preserbe methods for the choice by the state, of electors must be exercised under that The essential foutures of such a Unitation. government are the right of the prople to choose their own officers and the nearest practicable equality of value in the suffrages given in determining that choice.

It will not be claimed that the power given

to the legislature would support a law pro-viding that the persons receiving the small-est vote should be the electors of a law that all siectors should be chosen by the voters of a single congressional district, and under the pretense of regulating methods the legislature can neither vest the right of choice elsewhere nor adopt methods not conformable to republic in methode not contornable to reputite in institutions. It is not my purpose here to discuss the question whether a choice by the legislature or by the voters of equal single districts is a choice by the state, but only to recommend such regulation of this matter by con-stitutional amendment as will secure uni-formity and prevent that disgraceful partiean jurgiery to which such a liberty of choice, if it exists, offers a temptation. Nothing just now is more important than to provide every guaranty for the absolutely tair and free choice by an equal suffrage within the respective states of all the officers of the national government whether that suffrage is applied directly as in the choice of members of the house of representatives, or indirectly as in the choice of senators and electors of president. Respect for public officers and obedience to of our people until our elections cease to declare the will of majorities fairly ascertained, without fraud, suppression or gerramander. If I were called upon to declare wherein our chief national danger lies I should say, without hesitation, in the over throw of majority control by the suppression or perversion of the popular suffrage, That there is a real danver here all must agree. But the energies of those who see it have been chiefly expended in trying to fix responsibility upon the opposite party, rather than in efforts to make such pract cos impossible by either party.

Is it not possible now to adjourn that in-erminable and inconclusive debate with a we take, by consent, one step in the direct tion of reform by eliminating the garranan-der which has been denounced by all parties as an influence to the election of electors of president and members of congress

All the states have, acting tre ty and separately, determined that the choice of electors by a general ticket is the wisest and safest method, and it would seem there could be no objection to a constitupermanent. If a legislature chosen in one year upon purely local questions should pending a presidential contest, meet, reind the law for a choice upon a general ticket, and provide for the chaice of elect-ors by the legislature, and this trick should determine the result, it is not too much to say that the public peace might be seriously at widely endangered.

I have alinded to the "gerrymander" as aff-ering the method of selecting electors of president by congressional districts, but the cimary intent and effect of this form of notifical robbery have relation to the selection of members of the house of representatives. The power of congress is ample to deal with this threatening and intolerable abuse. The unfailing test of sincerity in election reform will be found in a willingforce such measures as will most effectually preserve the right of the people to tree and

gual representation. ing to bear the constitutional power of the general government for the correction of frauds against the suffrage. It is impor-tant to know whether the opposition to sugh measures is really vested in particular features supposed to be objectionable or indudes any proposition to give to the elestion laws of the United States adequacy to the correction of grave and acknowledged vils. I must yet entermin the hop-that it is rosslide to scenre a calm, patriotic con-sideration of such constitutional or statutory changes as may be necessary to secure the choice of the officers of the government o the people by fair apportionment and

I believe it would be possible to constitute commission, non-partisan in its member-hip and composed of patriotic, wise and mpart al mee, to whom a consideration of be question of the evils connected with our dection system and methods might be committed with a good prospect of securing unanimits in some pan for removing or mit-gating those evils. The constitution would permit the selection of the commission to e yested in the supreme court if that method would give the best guaranty of imparcial-

This commission should be charged with he duty of looking into the subjet of the law of elections as related to the choice of officers of the national government with a view to securing to every elector a free and unmo'ested exercise of the suffrage after a near an approach to an equality of value in

While the policies of the general govern-ment upon the tariff, upon the restoration our merchant marme, upon the river and millior improvem nts and other such matto be turn d this way or that by the results of congressional elections and administra tive policies, sometimes involving issues that tend to peace or war, to be turned this way or that by the results of a presi-dential election, there is a rightful interest in all the states and in every congressional district that will not be deceived or silenced by the audacious pretense that the question of any body of legal voters in any state or in any congression d district to give their suffrages ire ly upon these general questions is a matt rouly of local concern or control. The demand that the limitations of suffrage shall be found in the law, and only there, is a just demand an i no just man should re-sent or resist it. My appeal is, and must continue to be, for a consultation that shall "proceed with candor, calmness and patience upon the lines of justice and humanity, not by prejudice and ernelty."

To the consideration of these very grave

questions I invite no: only the attention of congress, but that of all patriotic citizens. We must not cutertain the delus on that our people have consed to regard a free ballot and equal representation as the price of their aliegiance to laws and to civil magistrates.

I have been greatly rejoiced to notice many evidences of the increased unification of our people and of a revived national spirit. The vista that now opens to us is wider and more g orions than ever before Gratification and amazement struggle for supremacy as we contemplate the population, wealth and moral strength of our country. A trust, momentous in its influence upon our people and upon the world is for a brief time committed to us and we must not be faithless to its first condition-the delense of the free and equal influence of the people in the choice of public officers

Executive Mansion, Dec. 9, 1891.